

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claims 4-24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25-27 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

At the present time, in order to expedite issuance of the allowed subject matter, the Applicants elect to put all claims remaining in the application in condition for allowance. The applicants reserve the right to pursue the currently rejected claims in continuation applications and divisional applications.

To put the claims in condition for allowance, the limitations of allowable claim 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claims 2-3 depend on claim 1. Thus claims 1-3 are in condition for allowance.

In addition, newly added claim 25 contains limitations similar to allowable claim 1. Claims 26-27 depend on claim 25. Thus, claims 25-27 are also in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,801,518 (hereinafter "Mulaney") in view of U.S. Patent 4,890,316 (hereinafter "Walsh"). The Applicants respectfully disagree. However, at this time, in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, all claims have been put in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 13 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,801,518 (hereinafter "Mulaney") in view of U.S. Patent 4,890,316 (hereinafter "Walsh") and further in view of U.S. Patent 4,270,202 (hereinafter "Stuttard"). The Applicants respectfully disagree. However, at this time, in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, all claims have been put in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 3, 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,801,518 (hereinafter "Mulaney"), U.S. Patent 4,890,316 (hereinafter "Walsh") and U.S. Patent 4,270,202 (hereinafter "Stuttard") as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,385,204 (hereinafter "Hoefelmeyer"). The Applicants respectfully disagree. However, at this time, in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, all claims have been put in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,801,518 (hereinafter "Mulaney") in view of U.S. Patent 4,270,202 (hereinafter "Stuttard"). The Applicants respectfully disagree. However, at this time, in order to expedite issuance of the allowed claims, all claims have been put in condition for allowance.

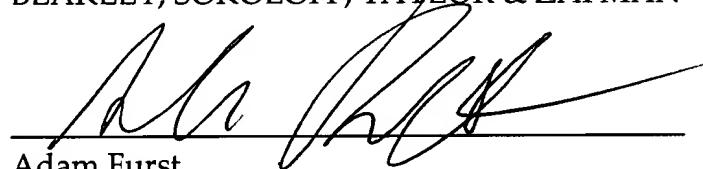
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Adam Furst at (408) 947-8200.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN



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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. This sheet, which includes Fig. 3 and Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. In Figure 3, previously omitted elements "DATA 391" and "DATA "381" have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes in Red

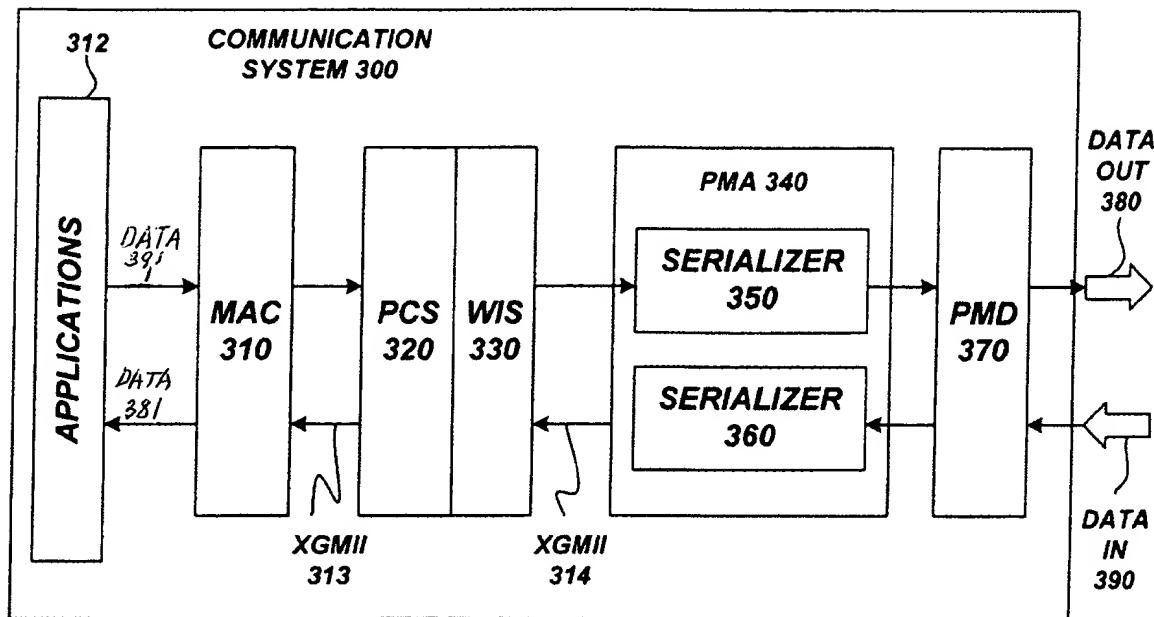


FIG. 3

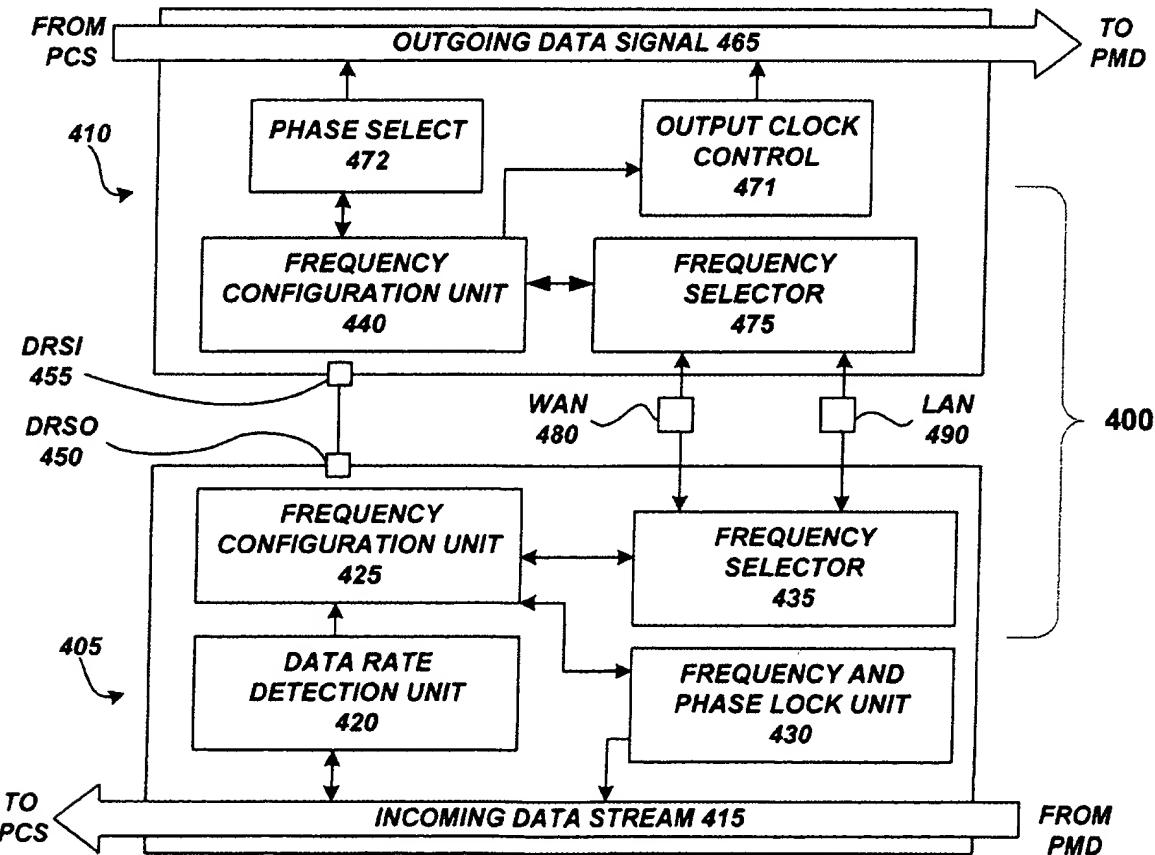


FIG. 4